

S T U D Y G U I D E



ALIVE

HOW *the* RESURRECTION of CHRIST
CHANGES EVERYTHING



GABRIEL N.E. FLUHRER

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How the Resurrection of Christ Changes Everything

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

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Introduction

The resurrection of Jesus Christ lies at the heart of the Christian faith. This is why the Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15 that if Christ was not raised from the dead, we are a people most to be pitied. Yet we live in a time when the claims of the resurrection are often considered impossible, irrational, and ignorant. Is our faith in vain? Can the Christian have certainty that Christ is risen from the dead? In this teaching series, Dr. Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer examines the many challenges to the resurrection and sets before us sound reasons to be confident, courageous, and filled with an everlasting hope in Christ's resurrection from the dead.

This study guide is a companion to the video teaching series. Whether you are using the DVDs, streaming the videos on Ligonier.org, or going through the course in Ligonier Connect, this resource is designed to help you make the most of the learning experience. For each message in the series, there is a corresponding lesson in this guide. Here is what you will find in each lesson:

INTRODUCTION	<p>The introduction is a brief paragraph that summarizes the content covered in the lecture and considered in the study guide lesson.</p> <p>How to use: Use the introduction to each lesson to get a sense of the big picture before watching the video. Refer to these statements as you work through the study guide to remind yourself of what you have already covered and where you are headed.</p>
LEARNING GOALS	<p>The learning goals are the knowledge and skills that the study guide lesson will endeavor to equip you with as you work through the lecture content.</p> <p>How to use: Familiarize yourself with the goals of each lesson before engaging its contents. Keeping the overall purpose in mind as you watch each video and reflect on or discuss the questions will help you get the most out of each lesson.</p>
KEY IDEAS	<p>The key ideas are the major points or takeaways from the lecture.</p> <p>How to use: Use these ideas to prepare yourself for each lesson and to review previous lessons. They describe specifically the knowledge that each lecture is communicating.</p>

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	<p>The questions are the guided reflection and/or discussion component of the lesson that is intended to help you prepare for, process, and organize what you are learning.</p> <p>How to use: Reflect on individually or discuss in a group the questions in the order in which they appear in the lesson. The time stamps in the right margin indicate where the answers to questions during the video can be found.</p>
PRAYER	<p>The prayer section offers suggestions for how to close the lesson in prayer with respect to what was taught in the lecture.</p> <p>How to use: Consider using each lesson's prayer section as a guide to personal or group prayer. These sections follow the ACTS prayer model, which you can learn more about in R.C. Sproul's Crucial Questions booklet <i>Does Prayer Change Things?</i> This helpful guide is available as a free e-book at Ligonier.org.</p>
REVIEW QUIZ	<p>The review quiz is a set of six multiple-choice questions that appears at the end of each lesson.</p> <p>How to use: Use each quiz to check your comprehension and memory of the major points covered in each lecture. It will be most beneficial to your learning if you take a lesson's quiz either sometime between lessons or just before you begin the next lesson in the study guide.</p>
ANSWER KEY	<p>The answer key provides explanations for the reflection and discussion questions and answers to the multiple-choice questions in the review quiz.</p> <p>How to use: Use the answer key to check your own answers or when you do not know the answer. Note: Do not give in too quickly; struggling for a few moments to recall an answer reinforces it in your mind.</p>

Study Schedules

The following table suggests four plans for working through the *Alive* video teaching series and this companion study guide. Whether you are going through this series on your own or with a group, these schedules should help you plan your study path.

	Extended 10-Week Plan	Standard 8-Week Plan	Abbreviated 5-Week Plan	Intensive 4-Week Plan
Week	Lesson			
1	*	1	1	1 & 2
2	1	2	2 & 3	3 & 4
3	2	3	4 & 5	5 & 6
4	3	4	6 & 7	7 & 8
5	4	5	8	
6	5	6		
7	6	7		
8	7	8		
9	8			
10	*			

* For these weeks, rather than completing lessons, spend your time discussing and praying about your learning goals for the study (the first week) and the most valuable takeaways from the study (the last week).

Finding Faith: Why the Resurrection of Christ Matters

INTRODUCTION

We live in a day when it's common to hear individuals describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious." The rapid rise of scientism has made many skeptical of claims to the supernatural. Yet the vacuum left in its wake has left many asking whether there is anything beyond the natural world. What happens when we die? Do our lives have meaning? In this lesson, Dr. Gabriel Fluhrer introduces us to the problems of our present age. He shows us that the gospel record of the resurrection not only is true but restores us to a hope that stretches beyond the grave.

LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Identify the skepticism and hopelessness that characterize our present age
- Understand how the resurrection of Jesus Christ establishes our confidence in God in this present age and our hope in the age to come

KEY IDEAS

- We live in an age of skepticism and apathy toward the gospel and the supernatural.
- The Gospels present the resurrection of Jesus Christ as a real and verifiable event.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the guarantee that believers will be raised in a resurrection like His.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- Many people claim to be “spiritual but not religious.” Why might this be such a common expression?
- Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ important to our faith as Christians?

Scripture Reading

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

—Luke 1:1–4

- What reason does Luke give us for his gospel account?

During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

An Age of Uncertainty

0:00–9:41

- How does Dr. Fluhrer describe the character of our contemporary age? How would you describe it?
- What are some ways that people show that they are spiritual by nature?

A Certain Hope

9:41–23:03

- What does Paul mean in 1 Corinthians 15 when he says that Jesus is the “first-fruits” of the dead?

- How does the resurrection of Jesus show us that there is something beyond nature?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- Some have described our contemporary age as “the age of anxiety.” Why is this a fitting name? How does the resurrection of Jesus offer us comfort when we are anxious?

If you are in a group, ask the members: How does Christ’s resurrection give us hope in life and in death?

- The Bible tells us that Jesus was raised from the dead. Does the Bible consider the desire for historical evidence to be a sign of weak faith?

If you are in a group, have the members discuss how the New Testament’s appeal to the historical veracity of the resurrection can encourage us in our faith.

- Since Paul describes Christ’s resurrection from the dead as the “firstfruits” in 1 Corinthians 15, what will be the final harvest? How should this truth affect our lives now?

If you are in a group, ask the members: What does Christ’s resurrection life mean for our future? What does it mean for us here and now?

PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God’s Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for loving sinners and sending His Son to live, die, and be raised for us.
- Confess the areas where you are prone to seek meaning for your life outside of God’s design and purpose.
- Thank God for giving our lives meaning and an eternal hope through Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to draw near when you become anxious, helping you look to Christ as your hope and confidence.

REVIEW QUIZ

Use these multiple-choice questions to measure what you learned from this lesson.

1. What is the name of Jean-Paul Sartre's philosophical novel about the general tenor of life?
 - a. *The Stranger*
 - b. *Nausea*
 - c. *Modernity and Her Discontents*
 - d. *Hysteria*
2. What term does John Calvin use to describe human beings?
 - a. *Homo sapiens*
 - b. *Homo sanctus*
 - c. *Homo religiosus*
 - d. *Homo economicus*
3. The Bible considers the historical evidence of the resurrection to be important.
 - a. True
 - b. False
4. Why does Luke tell us that he has written his gospel account to Theophilus?
 - a. That Theophilus might praise God
 - b. That Theophilus might know who Jesus was
 - c. That Theophilus might have certainty
 - d. That Theophilus might have hope
5. Which of these statements is true about the biblical account of the resurrection?
 - a. The resurrection of Jesus Christ guarantees that the Christian will also be raised from the dead.
 - b. The people of the Greco-Roman world were superstitious and would have believed the claim about Christ's resurrection without much evidence.
 - c. One can be a Christian even if he or she does not believe in the resurrection.
 - d. The resurrection of Christ was not physical but spiritual in nature.
6. The resurrection is proof that there is something beyond nature.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Answer Key—Finding Faith: Why the Resurrection of Christ Matters

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

These are personal questions. The answers should be based on your own knowledge and experience.

Scripture Reading

- What reason does Luke give us for his gospel account?

Luke tells us that his gospel is written as “an orderly account” in order that Theophilus might “have certainty concerning the things [he has] been taught.” The basis of such certainty rests on eyewitness accounts.

During the Video

An Age of Uncertainty

- How does Dr. Fluhrer describe the character of our contemporary age? How would you describe it?

Dr. Fluhrer describes our contemporary age as marked by anxiety, nervousness, nausea, distress, emptiness, and faithlessness. This is a bleak picture of our contemporary age.

- What are some ways that people show that they are spiritual by nature?

Despite the rise of scientism and the technological advancements of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, people show that they are spiritual by nature through their desire for ultimate meaning and purpose and the desire to know what happens after death.

A Certain Hope

- What does Paul mean in 1 Corinthians 15 when he says that Jesus is the “firstfruits” of the dead?

The firstfruits of a crop are indicative of the harvest that is to come. Jesus is the firstfruits of our resurrection, and He has established in His own resurrection life an unshakable hope of eternal life for all who believe. Christ’s resurrection guarantees that there will be a final harvest when all will be complete, when the ingathering of believers will come to an end, and when all that God began in

Christ will be brought to completion. May we find encouragement that, for the Christian, death does not have the final say.

- How does the resurrection of Jesus show us that there is something beyond nature?

The resurrection demonstrates God's existence in power by His raising Jesus from the dead and guarantees that all who believe in Him are likewise raised from the dead, even with a resurrection like His. It draws us to worship God for His supernatural work in creation and providence.

After the Video

- Some have described our contemporary age as “the age of anxiety.” Why is this a fitting name? How does the resurrection of Jesus offer us comfort when we are anxious?

We live in an age when many have lost confidence in the world around us—in our government leaders, in society, in humanity as a whole, and even in ourselves. Combined with a rejection of God and His design for creation, this has driven many to anxiety and despair. But Christ's resurrection is the guarantee that God has conquered both sin and death. It pushes away all our false hopes and sets the risen Christ before us as our ultimate hope in life and death.

- The Bible tells us that Jesus was raised from the dead. Does the Bible consider the desire for historical evidence to be a sign of weak faith?

The Bible does not consider that historical evidence for the resurrection contradicts true faith. The New Testament authors appeal to hundreds of eyewitness accounts. People saw Jesus alive. Luke tells us that he wrote his gospel as “an orderly account” of the events that occurred in order that Theophilus might have certainty concerning the things that he had been taught.

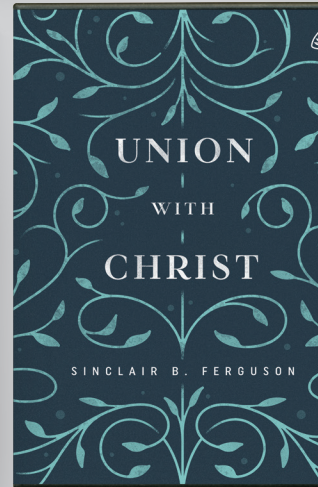
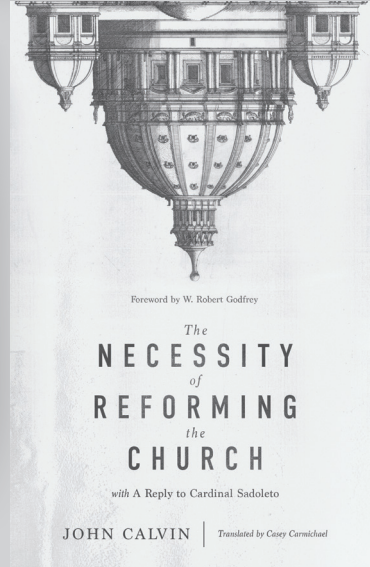
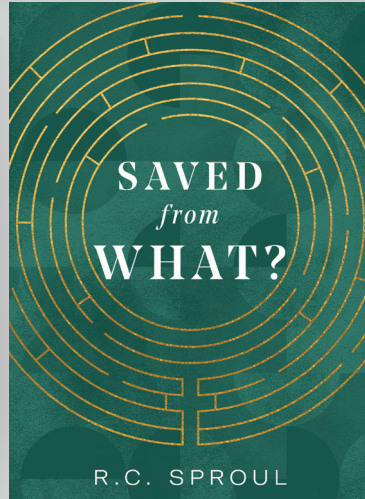
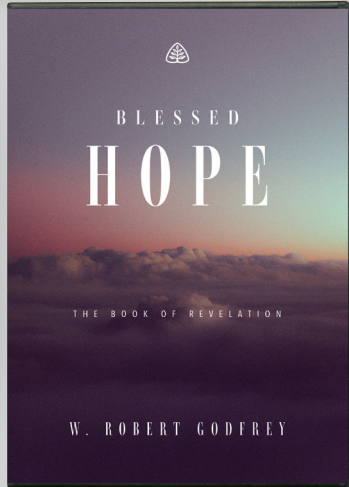
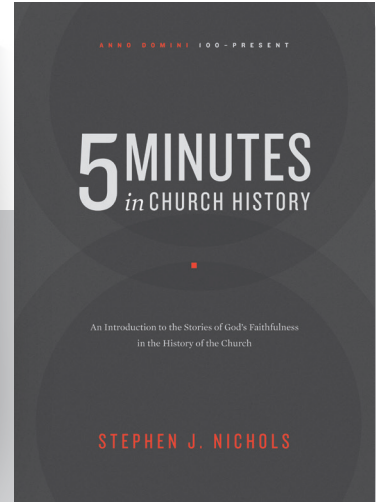
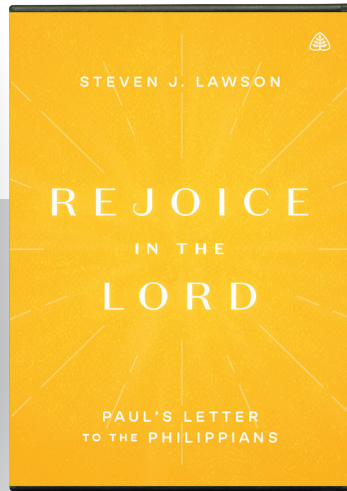
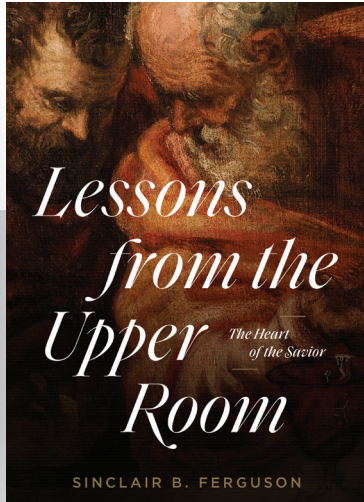
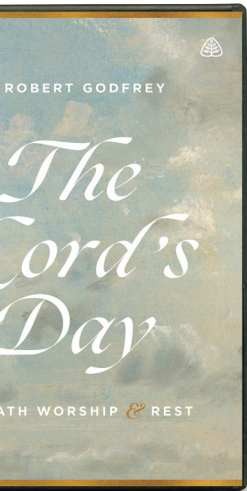
- Since Paul describes Christ's resurrection from the dead as the “firstfruits” in 1 Corinthians 15, what will be the final harvest? How should this truth affect our lives now?

The final harvest is at Christ's second coming. He will gather together all peoples, tribes, and nations before His throne to be judged. It is the time when God will separate the elect from the nonelect, the wheat from the chaff (Matt. 3:12). He will justly judge the wicked for their sin. Those who are in Christ on the last day will be made perfect, forever free from their sin, and will be filled with an inconceivable and eternal joy in God's presence. Because we have this future hope guaranteed in Christ, everything we do now has eternal consequence. We are now free to live in light of Christ's resurrection, not as those who are without hope or confidence, but as those who have an unshakable faith established for us in Christ Jesus.

REVIEW QUIZ

1. **B.**
Nausea, the title of Jean-Paul Sartre’s philosophical novel about life in the twentieth century, speaks to the frustration, anxiety, and despair that many experience in our contemporary age. We live in a day when more and more people are losing confidence in society, in government, and even in humanity itself. Yet the rejection of these false hopes makes the gospel stand out as our only true hope and confidence.
2. **C.**
John Calvin describes human beings as homo religiosus. Though many in our day would prefer to say that they are scientific and not religious, we cannot help but be spiritual people by nature. Questions about the meaning of life and what happens when we die point to the fact that there is more to our existence than what science alone can demonstrate.
3. **A.**
Passages such as Luke 1:1–4, 1 Corinthians 15:6, and 2 Peter 1:16 emphasize that there was eyewitness testimony to Christ’s resurrection from the dead.
4. **C.**
Luke 1:3–4 states: “It seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.”
5. **A.**
The resurrection of Jesus Christ guarantees that the Christian will also be raised from the dead. Paul tells us that Christ is the “firstfruits” of those who have died (1 Cor. 15:20). His resurrection anticipates the resurrection of all those who are united to Him by faith.
6. **A.**
The resurrection of Jesus Christ points to the reality that God exists outside nature. Though typically God providentially works out His will in creation through natural means, at times He acts supernaturally in the world.

We want to see men and women around the world connect
the deep truths of the Christian faith to everyday life.



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